

100 Democrats demand impeachment of US homeland security chief

By Anwar Iqbal

WASHINGTON: The fatal shooting of an immigration rights activist earlier this month has triggered rapidly growing support among House Democrats for impeaching US Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem.

Within just seven days of its introduction, the number of co-sponsors backing the impeachment resolution has reached 100, sponsors of the resolution said on Wednesday.

Renee Good, a 37-year-old mother of three, was shot and killed by an Immigration and Customs

Enforcement (ICE) officer in Minneapolis on Jan 7 during a controversial enforcement action that has ignited protests and political backlash nationwide.

At a White House press briefing on Tuesday, US President Donald Trump described the shooting as a “tragedy” and said he “felt horribly” about Good’s death. He acknowledged that “ICE is gonna make mistakes sometimes” and said he “understands both sides” of the incident.

The impeachment resolution, introduced by Rep. Robin Kelly of Illinois, accuses Ms Noem of obstructing Congress, violating the

public trust and engaging in self-dealing — charges that have resonated with a growing number of Democratic lawmakers.

“Secretary Noem and her rogue agency have caused destruction and devastation across the country,” Ms Kelly said in a statement. “One hundred House Democrats from California to New York, Minnesota to Texas support my impeachment resolution because our communities have seen ICE’s Gestapo-like tactics firsthand.”

The articles of impeachment allege that Ms Noem attempted to unlawfully enter a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) facility

used to detain undocumented immigrants and directed ICE to carry out “widespread warrantless arrests.” The resolution claimed that she also urged ICE to “forgo due process, and use violence against United States citizens, lawful residents and other individuals.”

The resolution also accuses the homeland security secretary of misusing her position for personal gain, including what critics say was the improper use of \$200 million in taxpayer funds to finance an ICE recruitment advertising campaign.

“As Secretary Noem continues to lie, obstruct Congress, and violate people’s civil rights, the support for

her impeachment only grows,” Ms Kelly said, urging Republican lawmakers to “be on the right side of the law and our Constitution.”

Democratic aides described the growing support as unprecedented during Mr Trump’s second term, noting that several lawmakers previously hesitant about impeachment have now signed on.

Among them is Rep. Jared Huffman of California, who said the circumstances were “so extreme that a message needs to be sent,” even as he acknowledged the measure’s slim prospects in the current Congress.

With 213 members in the House Democratic caucus, backing for the

resolution is now nearing half the party. A spokesperson for Ms Kelly said more offices were reviewing the text and that additional co-sponsors were expected.

The Department of Homeland Security has dismissed the impeachment drive as “silly,” saying Democrats should instead focus on crime in their own districts.

While Democrats can force a vote in the House, the effort faces long odds in the Republican-controlled chamber. Any conviction in the Senate would require a two-thirds majority, a threshold widely seen as unattainable under current political alignments.

Huge lines, laughs and gasps as Trump lectures Davos elite

DAVOS: To muted applause and not a few stony faces, US President Donald Trump took the stage before hundreds of the world’s rich and powerful on Wednesday for the most anticipated speech of this year’s Davos forum.

But during the two-hour wait to get in, the excitement to hear the leader of the world’s most powerful nation in person was palpable — “It’s like a rock festival,” one attendee said.

Quickly the doors to the World Economic Forum’s packed congress hall closed, forcing hundreds to scramble for spots in overflow rooms to watch him on screens.

Even the president of Latvia, Edgars Rinkevics, was stuck in line at one point before an aide guided him elsewhere.

“It’s interesting that people were lining up to hear President Trump, like they were not lining to hear any other speaker — none has got such kind of interest,” Rinkevics said.

Many were apprehensive about the escalating tensions between Trump and Europe over his bid to seize Greenland, a crisis that has overshadowed the annual schmoozefest’s agenda.

“I expect the worst. From what we know from Trump, he always needs to have all the attention and he needs to have a shocker message,” Julia Binder of the Swiss-based IMD Business School, said. And shock he did.

In one overflow room, attendees mockingly laughed and gasped throughout his speech. Guffaws when Trump talked about wind farms killing birds. Nervous laughs when he said he was asking for “a piece of ice”, meaning Greenland.

Others said “oh no” when he alleged that “Canada lives because of the United States.” Another exclaimed: “Oh my goodness!” when Trump recalled that Nato Secretary General Mark Rutte once referred to him as “daddy”.

More unbelieving laughs broke out when he made fun of French President Emmanuel Macron for wearing sunglasses — due to a burst blood vessel — during his own speech on Tuesday.

And howls when he again insisted: “All the US is asking for is a place called Greenland.” “I would say he’s gone from neocon to neo-imperial,” one attendee whispered. An hour into Trump’s rambling speech, people started to leave the overflow rooms. “He’s a nutcase,” one said on the way out.

‘Piece of rock’

Many said Trump was the ideal guest at a forum for hearing provocative voices. “Davos is a platform for and exchange of ideas, of views. So we are here to listen to all views, whether we like them or not,” said Daniel Marokane, chief executive of a South African power company. But others took umbrage at his trademark abrasiveness and attacks, including an insistence that the US deserves Greenland as payback for its massive Nato financing.

“Trump got elected because he knows how to read a room, but I’m not sure he read the room this time,” said an American medical technology executive, who like others requested anonymity to protect his company’s identity.

“One guy I saw get up and leave, he was visibly shaking with anger.” For Polish President Karol Nawrocki, it was a “very important speech”, not least because Trump claimed he would not use force to acquire Greenland.—AFP



BUSINESS leaders listen to President Donald Trump during a reception at the World Economic Forum in Davos.—Reuters

Trump says ‘framework of deal’ on Greenland reached with Nato chief

• Rule out use of force, lifts tariff threat against European countries • European Parliament suspends work on EU-US trade deal

DAVOS: US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday he had reached a framework for a deal over Greenland following a meeting with Nato chief Mark Rutte, and that he would therefore waive tariffs scheduled to hit European allies.

In a speech on Wednesday at the World Economic Forum at Davos, Trump for the first time ruled out using force, but demanded “immediate negotiations” to acquire the island from Denmark.

“We have formed the framework of a future deal with respect to Greenland and, in fact, the entire Arctic region,” Trump said in a post on *Truth Social*.

Meanwhile, the European Parliament decided to suspend its work on a trade deal between the 27-member bloc and the United States, a parliament member said, following President Trump’s repeated threats to take control over Greenland.

The US president did not provide any details on the framework, but added that his threatened tariffs against European countries which were resisting his quest to acquire Greenland was now off the table.

“Based upon this understanding, I will not be imposing the tariffs that were scheduled to go into effect on February 1st,” Trump wrote.

In a speech that veered from topic to topic, Trump also expressed hope of ending the Ukraine war soon.

Trump’s quest to take the strategic Arctic island of Greenland from Nato ally Denmark has deeply shaken the global order and markets.

“We probably won’t get anything unless I decide to use excessive strength and force where we would be, frankly, unstoppable — but I won’t do that,” Trump said.

“I don’t have to use force. I don’t want to use force. I won’t use force. All the United States is asking for is a place called Greenland.”

Wall Street stocks opened higher after his speech, and jumped further following his post.

Trump insists mineral-rich Greenland is vital for US and Nato security against

Russia and China.

But Trump appeared to take the threat of military action off the table, in a dramatic turnaround from his previous threats that the US could use force to take control of the mineral-rich Arctic island.

“We probably won’t get anything unless I decide to use excessive strength and force where we would be, frankly, unstoppable — but I won’t do that,” Trump said. “I don’t have to use force. I don’t want to use force. I won’t use force.

All the United States is asking for is a place called Greenland.” Wall Street stocks opened higher on Wednesday after Trump’s comments.

Denmark said it was a “positive” sign that Trump had said he wanted to avoid military force — but stressed that the US president had not backed away from his push to acquire Greenland.

“What is quite clear after this speech is that the president’s ambition remains intact,” Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen said.

Greenland’s government meanwhile unveiled a new brochure on Wednesday offering advice to the population in the event of a “crisis” in the territory, saying it was an “insurance policy”.

‘Immediate negotiations’

Trump repeatedly pushed his claims to Greenland — which he mistakenly called Iceland several times — during lengthy remarks on the deepest crisis in transatlantic relations for decades.

He said he was “seeking immediate negotiations to once again discuss the acquisition of Greenland by the United States” and added that Washington would “remember” if Denmark said no. Trump says Greenland is under threat from Russia and China.

The US president also lambasted Europe on a number of fronts from security to tariffs and the economy, saying it was “not heading in the right direction”.

Trump flew into Davos by helicopter, stepping onto a red carpet laid in the snow — but he flew into a growing international storm over Greenland.

He arrived some two hours behind schedule, after an electrical issue earlier forced Air Force One to turn back to Washington and the president to switch planes.

Europe and Canada had earlier closed ranks against what they view as a threat to the US-led global order from Trump’s territorial ambitions.

French President Emmanuel Macron meanwhile said Europe would not be bullied. But Trump, who was due to meet a number of leaders in Davos, renewed his attacks on the two leaders, mocking Macron in particular for wearing sunglasses at Davos, which the French president said was because of an eye condition.

‘Thoughtful diplomacy’

Trump also repeatedly expressed doubts on Nato during his speech, saying Washington was treated “so unfairly” and questioning whether the alliance would defend the United States if asked.

Nato chief Mark Rutte, whom Trump was due to meet in Davos, said that “thoughtful diplomacy” was needed to resolve the crisis. The Greenland row has also soured relations with the European Union, which has threatened counter-measures after Trump vowed tariffs of up to 25pc on eight European countries for backing Denmark.

UN chief warns

UN chief Antonio Guterres warned on Wednesday of world leaders upending international order in a statement made as President Donald Trump said the United States needs to acquire Greenland in a headline speech at Davos.

“When leaders run roughshod over international law, picking & choosing which rules to follow -- they are undermining global order & setting a perilous precedent,” Guterres said on X.

“When a handful of individuals can bend global narratives, sway elections, or dictate the terms of public debate, we are facing inequality and the corruption of institutions.”—Agencies

3,117 people killed during protests in Iran, say officials

TEHRAN: Iranian official media said on Wednesday 3,117 people were killed during protests which first erupted in late December and which activists say were suppressed with a deadly crackdown.

A statement by Iran’s foundation for veterans and martyrs, cited by state television, said 2,427 people in that toll, including members of the security forces, were considered under Islam to be “martyrs”, calling them “innocent” victims.

The authorities have condemned the protest wave as a “terrorist” incident characterised by violent “riots” fuelled by the United States. Rights groups however say thousands of protesters demanding change were killed by direct fire from the security forces.

Hundreds of building burned

Protesters attacked and burned hundreds of private and public buildings in Tehran, including 314 government buildings, and burning 155 more, as well as damaging hundreds of banks, shops and mosques, municipal officials told a group of journalists during a conducted tour of the Iranian capital on Wednesday.

The Tehran municipality showed journalists roughly a dozen charred buses lined up in the parking lot of a depot in Tehran.

Iraj Lotfizadeh, head of bus operations, said “22 buses were completely charred across all of Tehran” on Jan 8, when demonstrations exploded in size and intensity, with more vehicles damaged the following day.

Nearby, soot covered parts of the blue-tiled ceramic entrance of a mosque where walls were blackened and doors damaged.

Banners that once hung printed with prayers and Quranic verses were torn down and strewn about the floor alongside several burnt motorcycles.—AFP

Harry says paper made Meghan’s life miserable

LONDON: Prince Harry held back tears in the witness box as he told London’s High Court on Wednesday that the *Daily Mail* had made his wife Meghan’s life “an absolute misery” as he gave evidence against the paper’s publisher in a privacy lawsuit.

The Duke of Sussex, 41, and six other claimants including singer Elton John are suing the *Mail’s* publisher Associated Newspapers for alleged privacy violations dating from the early 1990s to the 2010s.

Associated, which also publishes the *Mail on Sunday*, has called the allegations “preposterous smears”, saying its journalists relied on legitimate sources, including friends and acquaintances of the celebrities.

Harry, who in 2023 became the first royal in 130 years to give evidence in court during another lawsuit against the press, delivered a combative performance under questioning from Associated’s lawyer Antony White. But he grew emotional when he was asked about the impact of the case, saying his treatment by Associated had “only got worse” since he sued the publisher in 2022.

“I think it is fundamentally wrong to have to put all of us through this again when all we were asking for is an apology and some accountability,” King Charles’ younger son said.

“It is a horrible experience and the worst of it is that by sitting up here and taking a stand against them ... they continue to come after me.” Choking up, Harry, who now lives with Meghan in California, added: “They have made my wife’s life an absolute misery.” —Reuters

Israel launches wave of fresh strikes on Lebanon

BEIRUT: Israel launched fresh strikes on what it said were Hezbollah targets in south Lebanon after raids earlier on Wednesday killed two people, the latest violence despite a year-old ceasefire with the group.

The state-run National News Agency said Israeli warplanes launched raids on buildings in several south Lebanon towns including Qanarit and Kfour, after the Israeli army issued evacuation warnings to residents identifying sites it

intended to strike there.

A photographer was slightly wounded along with two other journalists who were working near the site of a heavy strike in Qanarit. The Israeli army said it was striking Hezbollah targets in response to the group’s “repeated violations of the ceasefire understandings”.

Under heavy US pressure and fears of expanded Israeli strikes, Lebanon has committed to disarming Hezbollah. But Israel has criticised the Lebanese army’s

progress as insufficient and has kept up regular strikes, usually saying it is targeting members of the Iran-backed group or its infrastructure.

Earlier on Wednesday, the health ministry said an Israeli strike on a vehicle in the town of Zahrani, in the Sidon district, killed one person. A correspondent saw a charred car on a main road with debris strewn across the area and emergency workers in attendance.

Later, the ministry said another strike

targeting a vehicle in the town of Bazuriyeh in the Tyre district killed one person. Israel said it struck Hezbollah operatives in both areas.

A Lebanese army statement decried the Israeli targeting of “civilian buildings and homes” in a “blatant violation of Lebanon’s sovereignty” and the cease-fire deal.

It also said such attacks “hinder the army’s efforts” to complete the disarmament plan.—AFP

Sony gives TCL control of its home entertainment business

Under new venture, Bravia will utilise TCL’s display technology

Monitoring Desk / ANN

JAPAN’S Sony Corp announced on Tuesday that it had reached an initial agreement with China’s home appliance heavyweight TCL Electronics Holdings Ltd for the establishment of a joint venture to take over the former’s home entertainment business, including the flagship Bravia brand.

According to a memorandum of understanding, TCL will hold a 51 per cent stake in the proposed venture, while Sony will retain 49pc.

The Tokyo-based PlayStation maker said it plans to establish a joint venture that will encompass the development, manufacturing and sales of its televisions and home audio systems, including the flagship Bravia brand, *Bloomberg* reported.

The companies plan to negotiate a legally binding final agreement by the end of March 2026. The new company is expected to begin operations in April 2027, according to the announcement.

“We firmly believe that this strategic cooperation with Sony presents an excellent opportunity for both sides to integrate their strengths and support further business growth,” said Du Juan, chairwoman of TCL Electronics Holdings.

The two groups said the venture will draw on Sony’s long-standing strengths in audio-visual technologies, brand value and operational and supply chain management.

It will integrate those assets with TCL’s advanced display technologies, global scale, comprehensive industrial footprint, cost efficiency and vertically integrated supply

chain advantages.

Following the announcement, shares of TCL Electronics surged more than 16 per cent in Hong Kong, marking their largest intraday gain since April 2025. Sony’s stock fell 0.9pc in trading in Tokyo on Wednesday.

According to *Bloomberg*, the move marks the latest retreat by a Japanese corporation from the consumer electronics sector amid declining margins and intensifying price competition.

While rivals including Toshiba Corp., Hitachi Ltd. and Mitsubishi Electric Corp. have exited the television business, and Panasonic

Holdings Corp. and Sharp Corp. have scaled back, Sony had previously maintained the unit by positioning Bravia televisions as premium hardware integrated into its creative ecosystem.

Sony has increasingly prioritised expanding its intellectual property assets—spanning anime, film, music and sports broadcasts—over hardware sales.

The company previously divested or shuttered its operations in personal computers, tablets and portable media players.

Future products produced by the joint venture will carry the Sony and Bravia names but will utilise

TCL’s display technology.

TCL, one of China’s largest electronics brands, has aggressively pursued overseas growth. The company has established itself as a major budget television brand in the US and previously licensed the BlackBerry and Alcatel brands for mobile devices.

Earlier this year, TCL took over a prominent display space formerly occupied by Samsung Electronics Co. at the CES 2026 conference in Las Vegas.

The new joint venture is designed to operate globally, covering the full value chain from product design and logistics to customer service.